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# News Release

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## Hart-Miller waterway restrictions lifted

**Baltimore** — The waters near the pier on the southeast side of Hart-Miller Island have been reopened to the public, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District officials announced today. The area had been restricted as a safety measure while barges containing debris dredged from Baltimore Harbor were unloaded at the pier, because the debris included military ordnance items.

“The contractor has completed the unloading of the scows at Hart-Miller Island,” said Russ Marsh, dredging manager for the project. “The temporary restricted area is no longer needed.

Buoys marked the perimeter of the restricted area, which extended 1,500 feet from the pier. It included the channel used by barge traffic to and from the island and an area popular with crabbers. The buoys have been removed, Marsh said.

The unloaded material will continue to be sorted near the center of the island’s cross dike. Some ordnance items will be detonated there. During these activities, a 300-foot-radius safety zone will be established on the island. The zone will be expanded to a 1,500-foot radius if needed. Neither of these safety zones reaches the public areas of Hart-Miller Island or the water surrounding the island.

The Corps’ project team has coordinated this effort with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Maryland Watermen’s Association, the Baltimore County Watermen’s Association, the Baltimore County Bomb Squad, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Environmental Services, the Hart-Miller Island Citizens Committee and the Maryland Port Administration.

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